

How Medical and Public Health Workers Can Volunteer to Help with the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established a website <<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>> and toll-free number (1-866-528-6334) to help identify health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Individuals volunteering will need to arrange with their employers for vacation or other leave, as no funding for salaries for volunteers has been identified. However, travel and per diem will be paid. Assignments may last 14 days or longer. Volunteers under this program will be non-paid temporary Federal employees, and will therefore be eligible for coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act for liability coverage and Workman's Compensation when functioning as HHS employees.

Multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and relief personnel with expertise in the following areas are encouraged to visit the website and register to volunteer for appointment by HHS:

Administration/Finance Officers	Mortuary Assistants
Chaplain/Social Worker	Morticians
Clinical Physicians	Nursing Assistants/Nursing Support Technicians
coroners	Nursing Staff Directors
Dentists	Patient Transporters/Volunteers
Dieticians	Pharmacists
EMTs	Psychologists
Epidemiologists	Physician's Assistants or Nurse Practitioners
Environmental Health	Physician Chiefs of Staff
Epidemiologists	Radiology Technicians
Facility Managers	Respiratory Therapists
Housekeepers	RNs
IT/Communications Officers	Safety Officers
Laboratory Technicians	Security Officers
LPNs	Social Workers
Medical Examiners	Supply Managers
Medical Clerks	Veterinarians
Mental Health Workers	

Volunteer field conditions will be difficult. This may include all or some of the following:

- 12-hour shifts
- Austere conditions (possibly no showers, housing in tents)
- No air conditioning
- Long periods of standing
- Sleep accommodations on bedroll
- Military ready to eat (MRE) meals

Additional information is available through the contacts listed above.